

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

**Address:** 19-35 Martin Place

**Planning:** Sydney South

**Suburb/nearest town:** Sydney 2000

**Local govt area:** Sydney

**State:** NSW

**Parish:**

**County:**

**Other/former names:**

**Area/group/complex:**

**Group ID:**

**Aboriginal area:**

**Curtilage/boundary:**

**Item type:** Built

**Group:** Commercial

**Category:** Commercial Office/Building

**Owner:** Private - Corporate

**Admin codes:** 2214

**Code 2:**

**Code 3:**

**Current use:** Offices, Mixed Uses

**Former uses:** Mixed use – commercial, retailing, cultural and entertainment

**Assessed significance:** State

**Endorsed significance:** Local

**Statement of significance:** The MLC Centre is an important project associated with architect Harry Seidler, an outstanding Modern Movement practitioner who designed an impressive number of buildings in the City of Sydney and other parts of the state and Australia. It is an important milestone in his oeuvre that consolidated and extended the innovations and achievements of his seminal Australia Square.

The MLC Centre is historically significant and rare as the first private development in Central Sydney to provide a wide range of useful amenity and cultural assets to the general public. It is an outstanding example of Modernist architecture and urban design, which is acknowledged by the architectural and civic design awards that it received.

The exceptional tower and other structures within the MLC Centre derive their aesthetic impact from the successful and direct expression of their structural systems, which demonstrate a high level of technical significance. The tower, when completed, was notable for its record-breaking height. It was the tallest building in Australia and Sydney, and the tallest reinforced concrete building in the world when completed. The MLC Centre is significant for its open spaces and the inclusion of works by prominent artists including Josef Albers, Charles Perry and Robert Owen. The architectural and civic significance of the MLC Centre has been recognised by members of the architectural profession as an outstanding development of its period. The development was awarded the the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Merit Award (Civic Design) for 1979 and the Sulman Award for 1983.

In addition to its association with Harry Seidler, the MLC Centre has significant associations with prominent and influential individuals – engineer Pier Luigi Nervi and property developer Gerardus (Dick) Dusseldorp, who both enjoyed a fruitful professional relationship with Harry Seidler for several decades.

The MLC Centre site has significant historical associations with the Hotel Australia and former Theatre Royal building which once occupied parts of the site, and continued use of the site for the Theatre Royal included in the MLC Centre complex.

The MLC Centre is at least of local heritage significance in terms of its historical, associations, aesthetic/technical, rarity and representative value. This satisfies five of the Heritage Council criteria of local heritage significance for local listing.

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

**Historical notes** Site history:  
**of provenance:**

This site forms part of the land of the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of land within the City of Sydney council boundaries. For information about the Aboriginal history of the local area see the City's Barani website: <http://www.sydneybarani.com.au/>

The site of the MLC Centre, which has an area of approximately 0.9 hectares, is an amalgamation of 23 individual properties along with the absorption of the eastern section of Rowe Street and the consolidation of Lees Court between King and Rowe Streets. The site incorporates Allotments (or parts of Allotments) 10 to 20 of Section 38 in the City of Sydney, which were formally granted to various individuals between February 1835 and January 1842. It includes a series of individual sites that were celebrated historical, social and aesthetic institutions - the Theatre Royal, the Hotel Australia and the Commercial Travellers Association.

Initially part of a block bounded by Castlereagh, Hunter, King and Pitt Streets, Section 38 was in time traversed by several laneways and streets. By 1836, Brougham Place, lined with freshly completed houses, formed a link between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets. It was renamed Rowe Street in August 1875 in honour of prominent architect Thomas Rowe, who was an alderman of the Municipal Council of Sydney between 1872 and 1876. The short lane known as Lees Court (also known as Terry's Lane in its early days), which was extant by the mid-1860s, extended north a short distance from King Street. It did not originally connect to Rowe Street. Similarly, the narrow thoroughfare originally known as Foxlow Place extended west from Castlereagh Street for some distance but initially did not reach Pitt Street. Houses along its northern side were occupied by the second half of the 1850s. The street was widened and improved around 1878 and renamed Moore Street in honour of alderman Charles Moore. It is understood to have been extended to Pitt Street at this time.

In 1889, an Act was passed to allow resumption of properties to the north of the General Post Office so that a wide thoroughfare could be constructed. On 2 October 1890, fire broke out in premises on Hosking Place and spread south as far as Moore Street, causing extensive damage to buildings in the block. An opportunity was now available to widen the street in front of the General Post Office and integrate it with Moore Street to form an avenue between George and Castlereagh Streets. The Sydney City Council was given additional power to resume land and resumption commenced during 1891. It was decided to name the section between George and Pitt Streets Martin Place.

The property extending along Moore Street at the northern end of the MLC Centre's site was owned at this time by soft drink manufacturer, John Thomas Starkey. It had been in his family's possession for several decades and remained so for a few years after his death in 1892. Properties to the immediate south, with frontages to Castlereagh and Rowe Streets, were acquired by the Anglo-Australian Investment Company, which in 1887 was considering the erection of a new international-standard hotel. Mansfield Brothers, perhaps Sydney's foremost commercial architects at this period, were engaged to design the building. Its foundation stone was laid by Sir Henry Parkes in June 1889 and he returned to officially open the establishment in July 1891. The first of the illustrious guests to stay at the hotel was the great French actress, Sarah Bernhardt, whose name had pride of place in the new hotel's register, subsequently displayed in a glass showcase in the main foyer. The Hotel Australia was Sydney's tallest building when completed and offered an incomparable standard of accommodation. It was not, however, the only landmark in this part of Sydney. A few doors down Castlereagh Street was the well-established Theatre Royal, which had been drawing crowds since the middle of the 1850s.

The first Theatre Royal opened in 1827 on George Street, at the rear of Barnet Levey's Royal Hotel. In April 1835, businessman and nascent theatrical entrepreneur, Joseph Wyatt (1788-1860) became one of six lessees of the Theatre Royal and became sole lessee in 1836. He subsequently opened the Prince of Wales Theatre in Castlereagh Street, to the north of King Street, in March 1855. In October 1860, the theatre was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt to the design of prominent architect, John Hilly, reopening in May 1863. It was known for a short time as the Prince of Wales Opera House, before its destruction by fire in 1872. Architect Francis Hilly was engaged for the rebuilding of the theatre, which reopened in December 1875 with the name Theatre Royal. In 1882 the American, James Cassius Williamson, destined to become Australia's foremost theatrical manager and the founder of an important theatrical organisation, took out the lease on the theatre. It was ultimately acquired in

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

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Sydney

1911 by Gustave Ramaciotti (1861-1927), a partner of J C Williamson Ltd. Ramaciotti came to Australia from Italy as a child with his family. He practised law until joining J C Williamson Ltd. He sold his partnership and then purchased the theatre along with a neighbouring hotel and adjoining land at the rear of these properties. His military pursuits culminated in the honorary rank of major general in March 1920. The theatre and adjoining properties were inherited by Ramaciotti's two children, Vera and Clive, after he died in December 1927. J C Williamson Ltd occupied part of the building to the north of the theatre, on the corner of Rowe and Castlereagh Streets, which also housed other tenants.

About ten years later the theatre was effectively rebuilt under the direction of architect Henry Eli White, a prolific designer of theatres and cinemas, whose office produced some of the finest of these building types during the 1920s. It reopened in July 1921. The Theatre Royal remained for a time the Sydney venue for the JC Williamson organisation, which retained the lease after his death in 1913. During the 1920s, it was a vaudeville house and, in the depression years of the 1930s, served as a venue for cinema and for variety and musical theatre.

The Hotel Australia also underwent change during the 1920s. It was expanded in the early 1920s by the acquisition of Australian Chambers on Rowe Street, which was demolished and an 11 storey annex built on its site. It was to expand onto Martin Place the following decade.

In 1899, the Starkey family sold the property along Moore Street to the Citizens Life Assurance, which sold a portion at its western end in 1902 and subsequently sold a portion on the corner of Moore and Castlereagh Streets to the Commercial Travellers' Association (CTA) in 1907. The Association staged a competition for new premises, which was won by the prominent architectural firm Robertson & Marks. The building's foundation stone was laid by the Governor of NSW Sir Harry Rawson on 24 May 1908 and the completed building was opened by Rawson's successor, Lord Chelmsford, on 5 June 1909. Its exterior was constructed out of heavily rusticated sandstone with string courses at each level and impressive arched openings at ground floor level. It contained two basement levels and nine upper levels. The ground floor included shops along Castlereagh Street and offices of the CTA. There was a dining room on the first floor, social room on the second floor, billiards room and board room on the third floor and bedrooms for club members on the levels above.

Citizens Life Assurance erected a large building designed by architects, Wardell & Denning, on the residual section of land. It was largely built for, and leased to, the Government Savings Bank of NSW and completed in 1905. In the first quarter of 1908, Citizen's Life sold the building to prominent colliery manager and businessman, Frederick George Waley, who subsequently sold it to the Government Savings Bank around the beginning of 1915. After the Government Savings Bank moved into its sumptuous new head office at 48 Martin Place at the end of 1928, the building was sold to the Australia Hotel Company. A major addition to the hotel was planned during 1929. Although the 1905 building was demolished, the site remained vacant for some years as then-current building regulations prevented full development of the site. Construction of a stylish Art Deco style wing, which contained some of Sydney's finest interiors of the period, commenced towards the end of 1934. Designed by prominent architect Emil Sodersten, in association with the equally prominent firm of Robertson & Marks, the hotel extensions were completed in early 1936. The Hotel Australia was an important component of Sydney's social life during the 1930s, favoured by wealthy rural visitors to the city. It was also favoured by American servicemen during World War II. The hotel prospered during the 1950s, but its fortunes began to falter during the 1960s with the construction of international standard establishments such as the Chevron, Menzies and Wentworth Hotels.

The CTA also endeavoured to move with the times. In 1935 remodelling was undertaken that included an arcade and retailing at ground floor level and refurbishment of members' accommodation. More changes in the 1950s allowed the Club to accommodate the prevalent fashion for dinner-dances.

The Hotel Australia was operating at a loss during the 1960s.

MLC Centre development history:

Property developers Lend Lease and the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company (MLC) acquired a

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

majority shareholding in the hotel in 1968. The two companies had shared an association for some years. This was initiated when in 1958 Gerardus (Dick) Dusseldorp, founder of property developers Civil & Civic, realised the advantages of integrating finance, design and construction. A financing arm of Civil & Civic, Lend Lease Corporation, was founded later that year. Although financial institutions were generally not interested, a senior manager of MLC, Milton Allen, became a director at Lend Lease in 1959 and held the position for 22 years. Lend Lease was able to successfully organise financing for Australia Square, architect Harry Seidler's seminal scheme that amalgamated a number of smaller properties into a highly successful development that integrated open space with a tall tower occupying a relatively small part of the site.

An application for a 36 storey building on the Hotel Australia site, set back from Castlereagh Street and Martin Place, was lodged with the City Council on behalf of the Australia Hotel Company and Commercial Travellers Association in November 1968. It was approved in March 1969. In the meantime Lend Lease purchased the Boulevard Arcade, running between King and Pitt Streets. This had little impact in the short term. 1969 turned out to be fairly eventful – the CTA rejected an offer of purchase in July and withdrew its support for the scheme, leading to the submission of a new application with Council on the Hotel Australia site during September 1969. It consisted of an office tower with a shopping arcade below ground level and setbacks from Martin Place and Castlereagh Street, and was designed by architects Jon Mitchell & Associates. The Theatre Royal was offered for sale by auction in September 1969 after the various leases on the properties owned by the Ramaciotti family expired and was purchased by Lend Lease.

In the wake of the CTA's withdrawal the Hotel Australia was offered for sale and purchased by MLC in February 1970. Milton Allen was promoted to the position general manager of MLC three months later. Then, in September 1970 Lend Lease announced its intentions to proceed with a 305-metre high tower designed by Harry Seidler & Associates that tapered as it rose then flared outwards, reflecting hotel accommodation in the lower sections and office space above. It anticipated a relatively high level of site acquisition. However, in March 1971 Civil and Civic submitted a revision to the 1969 development application for a 31-storey tower on the Hotel Australia site that was also designed by Harry Seidler & Associates. About two months later it was updated by a scheme that included the Hotel Australia tower and a much larger crescent-shaped tower on the southern side of Rowe Street. The MLC Centre was still to achieve its final form. In all, some 14 schemes were produced as the site area changed.

The Hotel Australia finally closed at the end of June 1971 and was demolished. The final performance at the Theatre Royal took place on 29 April 1972. Last-minute action to save the venue resulted in a Builders' Labourers Federation (BLF) ban on demolition. At a meeting in the middle of May, Dick Dusseldorp offered to include a new theatre in the redevelopment scheme, which led to the lifting of the BLF ban and to demolition of the old theatre. A formal building application for redevelopment of the entire site was lodged in September 1972. Construction across the site was completed in a succession of stages. It was a condition of the Council of the City of Sydney's development consent that a subway be built under Castlereagh Street to connect the building to the Martin Place railway concourse. A proposal to develop additional naturally-lit underground shopping was never realised.

In March 1973, members of the CTA voted to continue negotiations with Lend Lease regarding the exchange of its building for freehold title to a new building occupying the same site and paid for by Lend Lease. Agreement was reached, and the last official function in the old building took place on 25 April 1975. At around the same time a deed of agreement was signed with the City of Sydney for the partial closure of Rowe Street and the exchange of privately owned land for the consolidation of Lees Court.

The podium levels and retailing sections were completed during the first half of 1975, while construction of the tower was underway above.

The Australian Institute of Architects describes the development as: The design of the tower combined innovations used in the firm's design of Australia Square, 1967, & the contemporaneous Trade Group Offices (Edmund Barton Offices), Canberra, 1974, developed with the advice of Italian structural engineer Pier Luigi Nervi. The tower is supported by eight massive, heavily loaded perimeter columns, each turned out at the base to

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

spread and transfer the loads. The columns taper in section until they are flush with the façade at the top of the tower expressing the decreasing loading and creating an optical illusion of the tower's height. The white quartz finished columns & spandrels were constructed in precast forms as the finish with concrete poured into the assembled precast formwork units on site in a progressive sequence of columns, spandrels & ribbed floors, achieving a cycle of one floor every four days. The form of the 'I' beam spandrels expressed the structural change from the mid-span, with the greatest moment loading, to a full depth section at the column support with the greater shear loading. The glazing was set back from the spandrel face so that the depth of the 'I' beam form provided sun shading. The innovative 'progressive strength' system of floor construction by the use of reinforcing welded to form self-supporting trusses required no conventional formwork or props. Plastic coffers were clipped onto the trusses which were progressively concreted to complete the primary beams and slab. The designs of the curved rib floor slab expressed as the entry lobby ceiling, the single-curved tapered mushroom-shaped column of the Commercial Travellers Club, the interlocking rib ceiling of the Theatre Royal entrance and the restaurant ceiling were developed by eminent Italian engineer, Pier Luigi Nervi. The public spaces featured artworks by Charles Perry, Alexander Calder and Josef Albers.

The Dendy Cinema, located off Martin Place, opened in May 1975. The single screen venue also included a café, bar and pool room. The new Theatre Royal, accessed from King Street, opened on 23 January 1976. It was followed by the CTA's new headquarters on the corner of Martin Place and Castlereagh Street, which incorporated social rooms on three levels below ground level, and 28 single and double bedroom units in the two upper levels. The new building was officially opened in July 1977 by the Governor of NSW, Sir Roden Cutler.

From the second half of the 1960s, Harry Seidler incorporated significant artworks into his major projects. The MLC Centre was no exception. Here they included one of Josef Albers' works entitled "Homage to the Square" and a tapestry by Alexander Calder called "My Onions", which were hung in the tower vestibule and have since been replaced by other works. Albers' "Wrestling" was placed on the eastern wall of the building bounding the western side of the plaza and Charles Perry's "S" was placed on the plaza court on the north eastern side of the tower. Perry's "Mercator" was suspended in the Theatre Royal foyer.

The completed MLC Centre was officially opened by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, in September 1978. All of the property was brought onto one title in the name of the Mutual Life & Citizens Assurance Company in December 1978. As well, Lend Lease took over the Theatre Royal in 1978 following the initial lease to J C Williamson's. The theatre became financially around the early 1980s when the first of a succession of popular musicals were staged. The MLC Centre received several important architectural awards, including the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Merit Award (1979), Civic Design Award (1981) and the Sulman Medal 1983. This was Seidler's fourth Sulman Medal; awarded jointly with John Andrews' American Express Tower in King Street.

The MLC Centre tower was the tallest building in Australia for nine years and the tallest in Sydney from 1977 until 1992. It was the tallest reinforced concrete building in the world when completed.

The Dendy Cinema closed on 9 September 2003. Its heyday extended between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s, but the venue became uneconomical because of its single screen format.

In 2007, Sydney-born sculptor and artist Robert Owen undertook commissioned works for the MLC Centre, including the recently installed painted panel "Interlude - Double Weave" and sculpture "New Constellation", which replaced the Albers and Calder works in the vestibule.

The MLC Centre has recently been the subject of several applications for alterations and additions. An application lodged in 2011 sought consent for façade repairs and remediation works. An application lodged in 2013 proposed to refurbish the podium levels and upgrade the food court level. Consent was subsequently granted for substantial alterations and additions to the basement and podium levels.

Harry Seidler:

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

Harry Seidler was born in Vienna in 1923. He left there in 1938 when his family moved to England to escape the Nazi occupation of Austria, but was interned in 1940 and eventually shipped to Canada, where he was permitted to study architecture and structural engineering at the University of Manitoba. He graduated with first-class honours in 1944. The following year, he won a scholarship allowing him to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Design where he studied under architect Walter Gropius, formerly Director of the famed Bauhaus in Germany between 1919 and 1928.

Seidler then studied at the experimental and short-lived Black Mountain College summer school in 1946 under another former Bauhaus teacher, Josef Albers. Here his academic and technical skills were enhanced by a strong aesthetic influence. Between September 1946 and March 1948, Seidler worked as architect, Marcel Breuer's, chief assistant. Breuer, who had been educated at the Bauhaus and then became master of its carpentry shop, had been Gropius' professional partner for some years. Seidler left America to travel to Australia, spending some time in Rio de Janeiro and working with the prominent architect, Oscar Niemeyer. He finally arrived in Sydney during July of 1948. The celebrated Rose Seidler house (named after his mother) was the very first that he built in Australia, completed in 1950. The house won the Sulman Medal in 1951 and received a great deal of publicity. Seidler was adept at promoting his architecture, and a large number of residential commissions followed over the next decade or so.

At the end of the 1950s, Seidler approached Gerard J Dusseldorp, who established Civil & Civic and the Lend Lease Corporation, with plans for an apartment development called Ithaca Gardens at Elizabeth Bay; a revised version of which was ultimately constructed. The firm of Harry Seidler & Associates was formed in 1962 and the relationship forged between Seidler and Dusseldorp endured for about three decades. Over the years, Seidler's office designed a wealth of different building types in NSW, other parts of Australia and other parts of the world, including individual houses, apartment blocks, hotels, monuments, office buildings, cultural facilities, municipal projects and industrial structures. These remained true to Harry Seidler's deeply-held Modernist convictions about what architecture should be. He was also involved in town planning schemes and developments integrating a range of building types into urban contexts in various parts of the world. Seidler's rigorous and uncompromising approach, though not always understood or appreciated by the general public, resulted in an impressive record of masterful and often innovative works; the quality of which was frequently recognised by awards for architectural and urban design excellence.

Seidler won the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Gold Medal in 1976 and a Special Jury Award for International Practice in 2000. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Institute of Architects while the Royal Institute of British Architects awarded him the Royal Gold Medal in 1996. He was elected a member of the Academie D'Architecture de France in 1982, awarded the Gold Medal of the City of Vienna in 1989 and then Austria's highest honour, the Cross of Honour for Arts and Sciences First Class, in 1995. Harry Seidler died in March 2006.

Apart from the MLC Centre, buildings in the City of Sydney by Harry Seidler include:

- Horwitz House, 398-402 Sussex Street (1954-1956)
- Commercial building for Howard Silvers, 616-620 Harris Street, Ultimo (1959-1961)
- Lend Lease House, 47-53 Macquarie Street (1959-1961; demolished)
- Cliff Noble Community Centre, 24 Suttor Street, Alexandria (1960-1964)
- Ercildoune, 85 Elizabeth Bay Road, Elizabeth Bay (1960-c.1965)
- Australian Consolidated Press additions to existing building at 189-193 Elizabeth Street and new building adjacent to it fronting Elizabeth, Park and Castlereagh Streets (from 1960)
- Australia Square, 264-278 George Street (1960-1967) – awarded the Sulman Medal and the Institute of Architect's Civic Design Award for 1967 and the Enduring Architecture Award, 2012
- Gemini Apartments, 40-44 Victoria Street, Potts Point (1961-c.1970)
- Aquarius, 50-58 Roslyn Gardens, Rushcutters Bay (1963-1965)
- Government Stores (Q Stores), 47-49 Bourke Road, Alexandria (1965-1970)
- International Lodge 100 Elizabeth Bay Road, Elizabeth Bay (1968-1970)
- Mid-City Centre, 197-201 Pitt Street (1980-1983; demolished)

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

- Grosvenor Place (1982 -1988) - awarded the RAIA Lustig & Moar National Prize, 1989 and Sulman Medal for 1991
- Capita Centre, 9 Castlereagh Street (1984-1989)- received a RAIA Merit Award in 1991
- Darling Park Masterplan for Darling Park and the first of three towers, initially occupied by IBM at 201 Sussex Street (c.1989-1993)
- Horizon Apartments, 184 Forbes Street, Darlinghurst (1990-1998)
- 372 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills (1996-1998)
- Meriton Apartments, 528 Kent Street (2001-2006)
- Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre 458 Harris Street, Ultimo (2001- 2007) - received the International Architecture Award, Chicago Athenaeum in 2009 and the AIA (NSW) Public Architecture, 2008
- North Apartments, 91 Goulburn Street (2003-2004)
- Cove Apartments, 129 Harrington Street, The Rocks (2003-2004)
- Alliance Française, 257 Clarence Street (2005-2009)

The City of Sydney commissioned Harry Seidler to design a block of flats at 40 Stephen Street, Paddington (now part of the Woollahra LGA), which was built in 1963. He also designed another block of flats for the Council at 33 Station Street Newtown, approved in August 1963).

**Themes: National theme**

8. Culture

4. Settlement

3. Economy

9. Phases of Life

**State theme**

Creative endeavour

Towns, suburbs and villages

Commerce

Persons

**Local theme**

Modern architecture & art

Creating landmark structures ar

Insurance

Harry Seidler, architect

**Designer:** Harry Seidler Architects; Pier Luigi Nervi; artists, Josef Albers, Charles O. Perry & Robert Owen

**Builder:** Civil and Civic

**Year started:** 1972

**Year completed:** 1978

**Circa:** No

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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

**Physical description:** The MLC Centre is an integrated complex of buildings and open space on a prominent corner L-shaped site that is bounded by Martin Place, King Street, Castlereagh Street and Lees Court. It consists of the following main elements:

- A free-standing polygonal 67-storey office tower, which occupies about 20% of the site. Its plan form consists of a square with chamfered corners. The tower is located at the southern end of the site. Its position was determined by railway lines running diagonally beneath the site and enabled the formation of an open plaza between the tower and Martin Place. The building's structure consists of a rigid load-bearing reinforced concrete core allied to external columns and spandrel panels resulting in clear-span office space. The exterior is constructed of poured in-situ concrete and precast concrete with a white quartz finish. Eight massive external columns at the tower's corners carry its weight. The columns thicken and turn outwards at the lower levels in response to increased vertical and lateral loads, then become more slender and finish flush with façade sections as the building rises. Structural spandrels extend across each plane of the exterior. Their shape is a refinement of a concept that first emerged in Harry Seidler & Associates' Trade Group offices in Canberra (1969-1974), where the different structural loads on the spandrel are clearly expressed in its design. Bands of windows are recessed to provide protection from the sun.

The ground-floor vestibule of the tower is a high space that encircles the service and lift core. Sculptural artworks by sculptor and artist Robert Owen named "Interlude – Double Weave" and "New Constellation" are mounted on travertine lined walls above the openings to the various lift shafts. The corners of the service core curve gently outwards. The ceiling of the space is formed by the soffit of the floor above, the curved ribs of which reflects the advice of famous Italian structural engineer, Pier Luigi Nervi.

- A two-level retail arcade that is integrated with the plazas on the northern section of the site and extends beneath the tower to King and Castlereagh Streets. Some shops also have frontages to Castlereagh Street. A shallow stepped ramp leads from Martin Place and is aligned with the tower axis. A large circular well lights the shopping and restaurant concourse below. From Martin Place, access can be gained to the lower retailing level or via a stepped ramp to the lower plaza. A flight of stairs, aligned on axis with the tower, provides access to and from the plaza that serves as a forecourt to the main tower lobby two levels above Martin Place. Radial lines in the paving accentuate the planning, based on circular and square geometry, governing the design of the MLC Centre. The tower is flanked by semi-circular courts defined by curved walls. Vehicular ramps running parallel to Castlereagh and King Streets with footpaths diverting around them were the result of planning restrictions.

- Sculptor Charles O. Perry's "S" is located on the upper (tower vestibule) plaza on the north eastern side of the tower. Josef Albers' relief sculpture "Wrestling" is mounted on the eastern elevation of 5 Martin Place, which overlooks the plazas.

- A below-ground proscenium-type theatre seating around 1,100 patrons, accessed from King Street. The vestibule of the theatre is expressed as a cylindrical mass with a discrete entry. The vestibule takes the form of a three-storey high lobby at the intermediate level between stalls and dress circle. A wide central stair spirals up and down from this level to give access to seats. Charles O. Perry's sculpture "Mercator" is suspended above the central stair void. The ceiling of the theatre is formed out of "waves" of curvilinear timber ribs that conceal services.

- A single-storey building, intended for restaurant uses, that has a quadrant-shaped footprint and a raked and curved monopitch roof in the south western section of the site on the upper plaza level. The roof structure reflects the input of Pier Luigi Nervi.

- The cylindrical Commercial Travellers Club, two levels supported on a single curved tapered column at the north-eastern corner of the site. The ribbed structure of the column also reflects the input of Pier Luigi Nervi. Several of the Club's spaces are beneath ground level. An underground pedestrian link to the network of walkways to Martin Place Station emerges at the base of the column.

**Physical condition level:** Excellent



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Sydney

**Physical condition:** The MLC Centre is generally in good condition. The external cladding of the tower is currently undergoing repair and maintenance.

**Archaeological potential level:** Not assessed

**Archaeological potential Detail:** The site is not included in the Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan.

**Modification dates:** The fabric and spaces of parts of the MLC Centre have been modified over the years, although major changes have been undertaken with the involvement of Harry Seidler & Associates. Modifications include:

- the addition of a glazed canopy and escalators providing access to the tower entrance at the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets corner
- modifications to street level Castlereagh and King Street façades and shop fronts
- removal of the original cascade mounted on the fascia of the circular plaza well and installation of an umbrella-like glazed canopy in the centre of the well.
- modifications to the entrance and canopy of the former Dendy Theatre, along with internal spaces.
- refurbished food court and retail levels, with original floor and ceiling finishes and the elaborate digital clock removed
- upper level plaza extensively modified
- lift cars, core and typical floors refurbished
- fire services and car park levels refurbished
- roof area modified to incorporate microwave towers
- construction of pedestrian bridge over King Street to 131-135 King Street, circa 1989 (Crone & Associates architects)
- original paving setts to some sections of the plaza replaced
- stepped ramp to the upper plaza (tower vestibule) replaced with a wide flight of stairs
- background material of Josef Albers' "Wrestling" changed and its position modified to some extent following redevelopment of 5 Martin Place
- original artworks in the ground floor lobby replaced

2015: Approved (not yet constructed) retail development of podium and basement levels (known as levels 1-9), including partial demolition, additional floors to podium, new retail tenancies along King, Castlereagh and Rowe Streets, removal of vehicular ramps from Castlereagh and King Streets, landscaping and public domain works, designed by Harry Seidler & Associates, reviewed by City's Design Advisory Panel for appropriateness of additions to the original 1970s Seidler architectural concept and the heritage context (D/2015/66).

**Recommended management:** List the MLC Centre in Schedule 5 of Sydney LEP 2012 including the plazas and open spaces around the Tower, retailing sections, the quadrant shaped restaurant, Theatre Royal, Tower and Commercial travellers Association building. The listing should also include Charles Perry's "S" and "Mercator", and Josef Albers' "Wrestling", which formed part of the Centre as originally completed.

MLC Centre is identified as an Opportunity Site (Item 9 on Map OPS\_014. It is recommended that the pedestrian plazas and open spatial relationship of the MLC Centre to Martin Place and King Street is retained.

The MLC Centre should be retained and conserved. All original external fabric, the tower vestibule, intact spaces and internal fabric of the Theatre Royal, restaurant interior (subject to integrity) should be retained. Surfaces never intended to be painted should remain unpainted and be appropriately maintained. Remaining intact original internal spaces on upper levels and associated intact original fabric should be retained and conserved.

Investigate opportunities to remove detracting additions that obscure original architectural features, including the King Street pedestrian bridge that obscures western views to the MLC Centre along King Street.

A conservation management plan should be prepared to guide future use and management of significant fabric. Any application for future works involving structural changes and/or modification of original and significant building fabric should be accompanied by a heritage impact statement.

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

**Management:** **Management category**  
Statutory Instrument

**Management name**  
List on a Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

**Further comments:** Heritage inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

Significant interiors for modern office or community buildings generally include interiors with original design quality or fabric, such as entrance foyers, halls, lift lobbies, stairs, meeting or event rooms, and gathering spaces, including original art installations and exposed structural features. It excludes interiors with no significance, such as non-original office or service room fit-outs. Significant interiors can be identified in more detail for each item through preparation of a heritage assessment or conservation management plan.

Images copyright note: Josef and Anni Albers Foundation has granted copyright approval for reproduction of Albers' artworks appearing amid photos of Seidler architecture for the purpose of discussion of Seidler architecture.

**Criteria a):** The site of the MLC Centre has associations with the historically significant Hotel Australia, which occupied part of the site from the beginning of the 1890s until the early 1970s, and the historically significant Theatre Royal, which opened on part of the site during the 1850s and which, in a new building, was incorporated into the development of the site.  
**[Historical significance]**

The MLC Centre is historically significant because it was the first time that a private development in Central Sydney provided a range of useful assets to the general public, including sheltered open space, retailing and dining opportunities, a high quality theatre and for a number of years a cinema and tavern in a high quality urban environment. It consolidated and built on the benefits of public open space and retailing first presented by Harry Seidler's seminal Australia Square, completed a decade earlier.

The tower of the MLC Centre has some historical significance because it was the tallest reinforced concrete in the world when completed in 1977, Australia's tallest building from 1977 until 1985 and Sydney's tallest building until 1992.

Meets this criterion at Local and State level.

**Criteria b):** The MLC Centre is associated with architect Harry Seidler, an outstanding practitioner who espoused the principles of the Modern Movement and designed an impressive number of different types of buildings in that idiom in the City of Sydney and other parts of NSW and Australia. It represents an important stage in the evolution of his work on large inner city buildings and their immediate environs and setting, consolidating and extending the innovative and outstanding achievements of his Australia Square (1967).  
**[Historical association significance]**

The MLC Centre has associations with the innovative and influential Italian structural engineer, Pier Luigi Nervi, and with the prominent and influential property developer, Gerardus (Dick) Dusseldorp. Both enjoyed a fruitful professional relationship with Harry Seidler for a number of years.

Meets the criterion at a Local and State level.

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

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Sydney

**Criteria c):** The MLC Centre is an outstanding example of Modernist architecture and urban design. The tower is an elegant and innovative building. Its structural system has been successfully and skilfully expressed and integrated into the external form and appearance of the building. The centre is notable for the inclusion of works by prominent artists, including Josef Albers, Charles Perry and Robert Owen.

[Aesthetic/  
Technical  
significance]

The architectural and civic significance of the MLC Centre has been recognised by members of the architectural profession as an outstanding development of its period. This is demonstrated by receipt of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects' Merit Award (Civic Design) for 1979 and the Sulman Award for 1983.

The MLC Centre is technically significant for the advanced and innovative method of precast concrete construction demonstrated in the tower and the various smaller structures in the Centre, including the Commercial Travellers' Association, the theatre Royal and the restaurant. The use of permanent, precast concrete form elements, an important technique of Pier Luigi Nervi, was innovative in Australia.

Meets this criterion at a Local and State level.

**Criteria d):** Although further investigation is required to establish the social significance of the MLC Centre, it is suggested that the place may be valued by the wider community for its landmark architectural features, open space extending from Martin Place, and the Theatre Royal with its popular theatrical productions held over many years.

[Social/Cultural  
significance]

May meet the criterion at a Local level.

**Criteria e):** The building's research potential has not been ascertained.

[Research  
significance]

May meet the criterion at a Local and State level.

**Criteria f):** The MLC Centre is a rare example of a major inner city development combining several different functions (office, retail, restaurants and theatre) and a high level of civic amenity to Central Sydney.

[Rarity]

Meets the criterion at a Local level.

**Criteria g):** The MLC Centre is representative of Harry Seidler's architecture, firmly founded in the Modernist tradition. The tower and other structures are representative of Seidler's buildings in that convincing and resolved design outcomes of high aesthetic quality were generated by rational analysis of structure and the opportunities and constraints offered by its site. The concept of the free-standing tower surrounded by open space is a fundamental of Modern Movement architecture and an important tenet of Harry Seidler's work – the MLC Centre is one of a sequence of projects that includes Australia Square and Grosvenor Place embodying this concept.

[Representative]

Meets the criterion at a Local and State level.

**Intactness/Integrity:** Relatively high integrity. Proposed building modifications are designed by Harry Seidler & Associates, providing continuity of the architectural concept and consistency in building fabric.

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Webber, G P (editor)	The Design of Sydney	1988
	Harry Seidler and David Sequiera	Harry Seidler's illustrated lecture "Josef Albers – Teaching of"	2002
	Mary Murphy	Challenges of Change: the Lend Lease story	1984
	Kenneth Frampton, Philip Drew	Harry Seidler: four decades of architecture	1992
	Judith O'Callaghan, Paul Hogben and	Sydney's Martin Place: a cultural and design history	2016
	Harry Seidler & Associates	MLC Centre	2011
	C Neumann	Ramaciotti, Gustave Mario (1861-1927)	1988
	Ailsa McPherson	Theatre Royal	2010

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Tanner Kibble Denton Ar	Modern Movement Architecture in Central Sydney - Heritag		2018

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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**Latitude:**

**Longitude:**

**Location validity:**

**Spatial accuracy:**

**Map name:**

**Map scale:**

**AMG zone:**

**Easting:**

**Northing:**

**Listing: Name**

**Title**

**Number**

**ListingDate**

Modern Movement Architecture in Heritage study

01/01/2018

**Data entry:** Data first entered: 04/09/2001

Data updated: 25/03/2019

Status: Completed

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

**Image:**



**Caption:** MLC Centre viewed from Martin Place

**Copy right:** City of Sydney

**Image by:** Claudine Loffi

**Image date:** 30/03/2016

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3453570bde0062c4f8f920ebee8301e92e2.JPG>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test3453570bde0062c4f8f920ebee8301e92e2.JPG](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test3453570bde0062c4f8f920ebee8301e92e2.JPG)

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney

**Image:**



**Caption:** MLC Centre tower viewed from the courtyard in front of Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345c5be4817218d4725b9d033269968d3af.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test345c5be4817218d4725b9d033269968d3af.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test345c5be4817218d4725b9d033269968d3af.jpg)

**Image:**



**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** The MLC Centre viewed from the north east

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345d7bc3bc63a4541928fd3b41f8576c69a.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test345d7bc3bc63a4541928fd3b41f8576c69a.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test345d7bc3bc63a4541928fd3b41f8576c69a.jpg)

**Image:**

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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Building constructed for the Commercial Travellers' Association

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34524d84380e4374bbb995311154cda4a3e.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34524d84380e4374bbb995311154cda4a3e.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34524d84380e4374bbb995311154cda4a3e.jpg)

**Image:**



**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Pedestrian plazas looking to the north east

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3451eb504ea75d0486e960ea29d8ab9c71c.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test3451eb504ea75d0486e960ea29d8ab9c71c.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test3451eb504ea75d0486e960ea29d8ab9c71c.jpg)

**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Stair linking the upper and lower plazas

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345ded830360bcc45a0911da5e1e15fed9b.jpg>

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**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Ramped steps connecting the plaza to Martin Place, with non-original white blocks on steps

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3453cc14888c56f42d49f1304188ada3d93.jpg>

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**Image:**



**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Upper plaza court on the southern side of the tower vestibule

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/34543d083e3e5e44f1fbc9ae0a9843811c8.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test34543d083e3e5e44f1fbc9ae0a9843811c8.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test34543d083e3e5e44f1fbc9ae0a9843811c8.jpg)

**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Looking west along King Street towards the Theatre Royal

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34570ba069b7e414a6b9dc230da29707bd7.jpg>

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**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Entry and foyer to the Theatre Royal in King Street with Lees Court at left

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345a81efa34175a4b448e2d0161f7f0f5d7.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test345a81efa34175a4b448e2d0161f7f0f5d7.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test345a81efa34175a4b448e2d0161f7f0f5d7.jpg)

**Image:**



**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Detail of profile and configuration of tower spandrels

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/34591e6f014d29a4a9db092f78e49ff8781.jpg>

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**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Restaurant above the Theatre Royal in 2017

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345e8e914f1320144dfa3aec0021d66df51.jpg>

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**Image:**



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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Passage between the upper plaza and Castlereagh Street with early setts still in place

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34502e6da4f648d44a4906f3986de99cfd.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34502e6da4f648d44a4906f3986de99cfd.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34502e6da4f648d44a4906f3986de99cfd.jpg)

**Image:**

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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Charles O. Perry's "S", located in the court on the north eastern side of the tower.

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345dbaa2729a0e0430bb006fdd325561712.jpg>

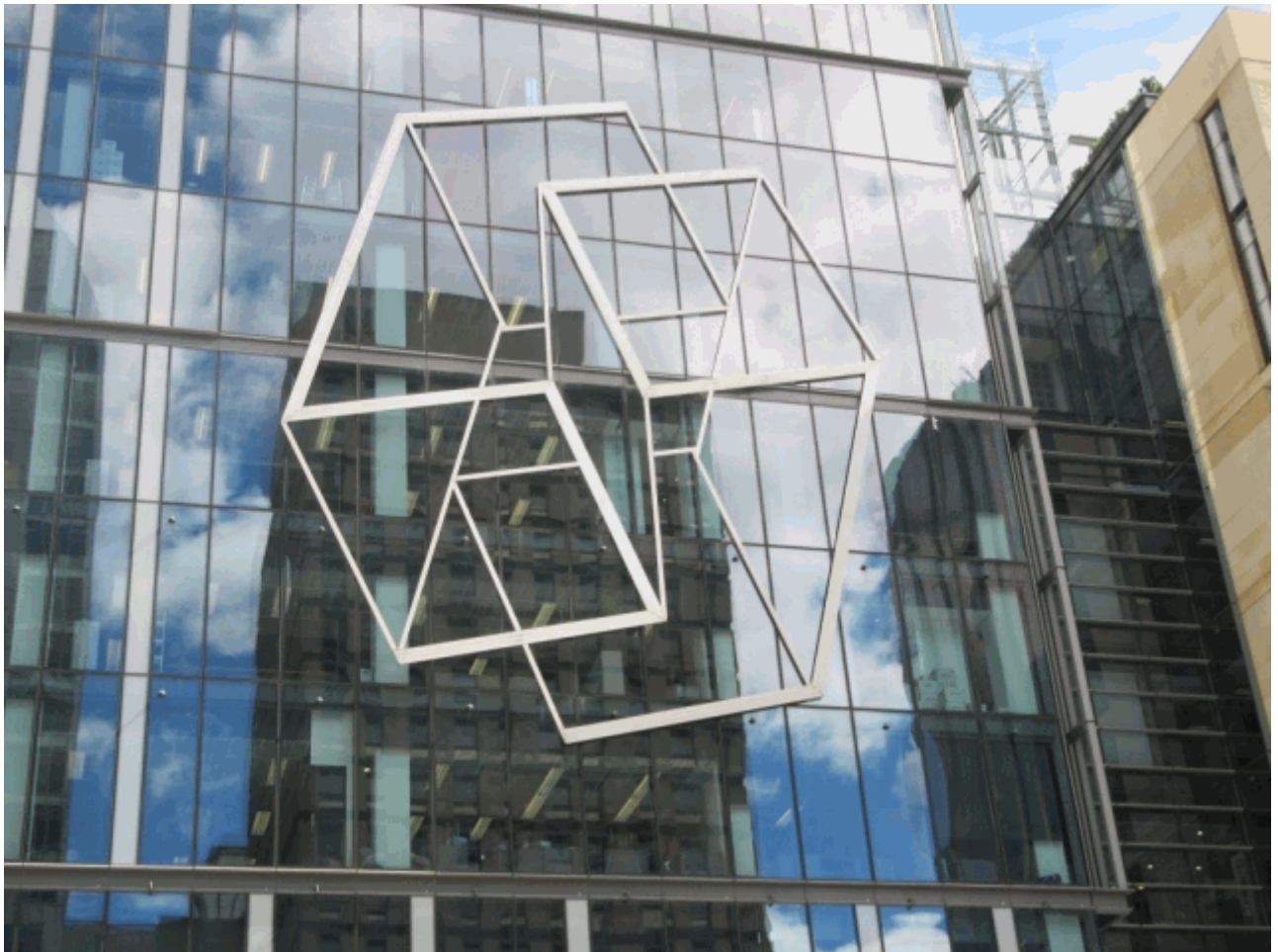
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Sydney



**Caption:** Josef Albers' "Wrestling", mounted above the western side of the plaza

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton (photo), Josef and Anni Albers Foundation (artwork)

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3451578e1f87ab8423397305c31e25678fa.jpg>

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**Image:**



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**Caption:** Robert Owen's "New Constellation", mounted on the northern side of the tower vestibule

**Copy right:** Tanner Kibble Denton

**Image by:** Roy Lumby

**Image date:** 17/05/2017

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/345e705d5dcf980486ea5d5d5f6b33da0ec.jpg>

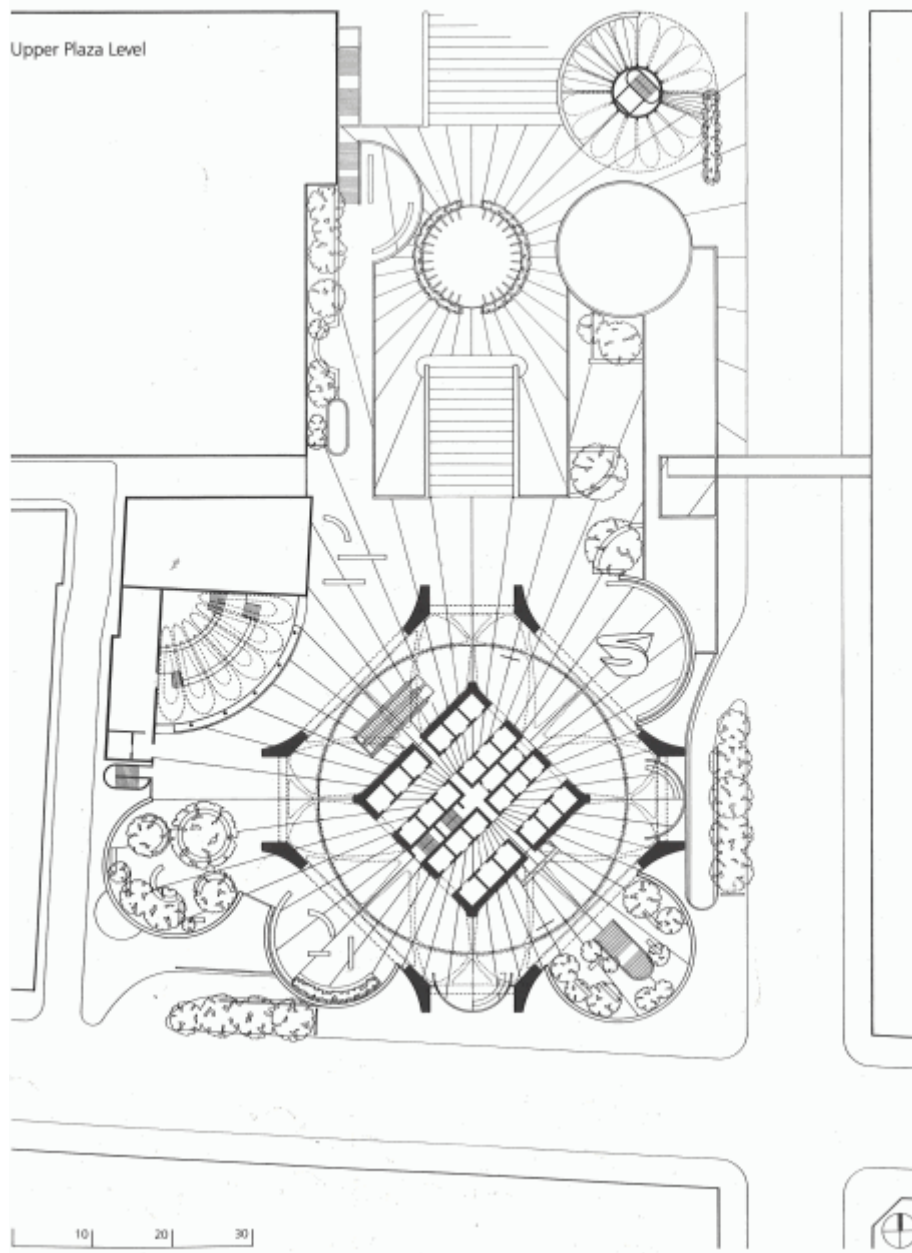
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**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Plan of lower plaza area as originally designed

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:**

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345976e75dff2a7486ab3c475144d0c8ea0.jpg>

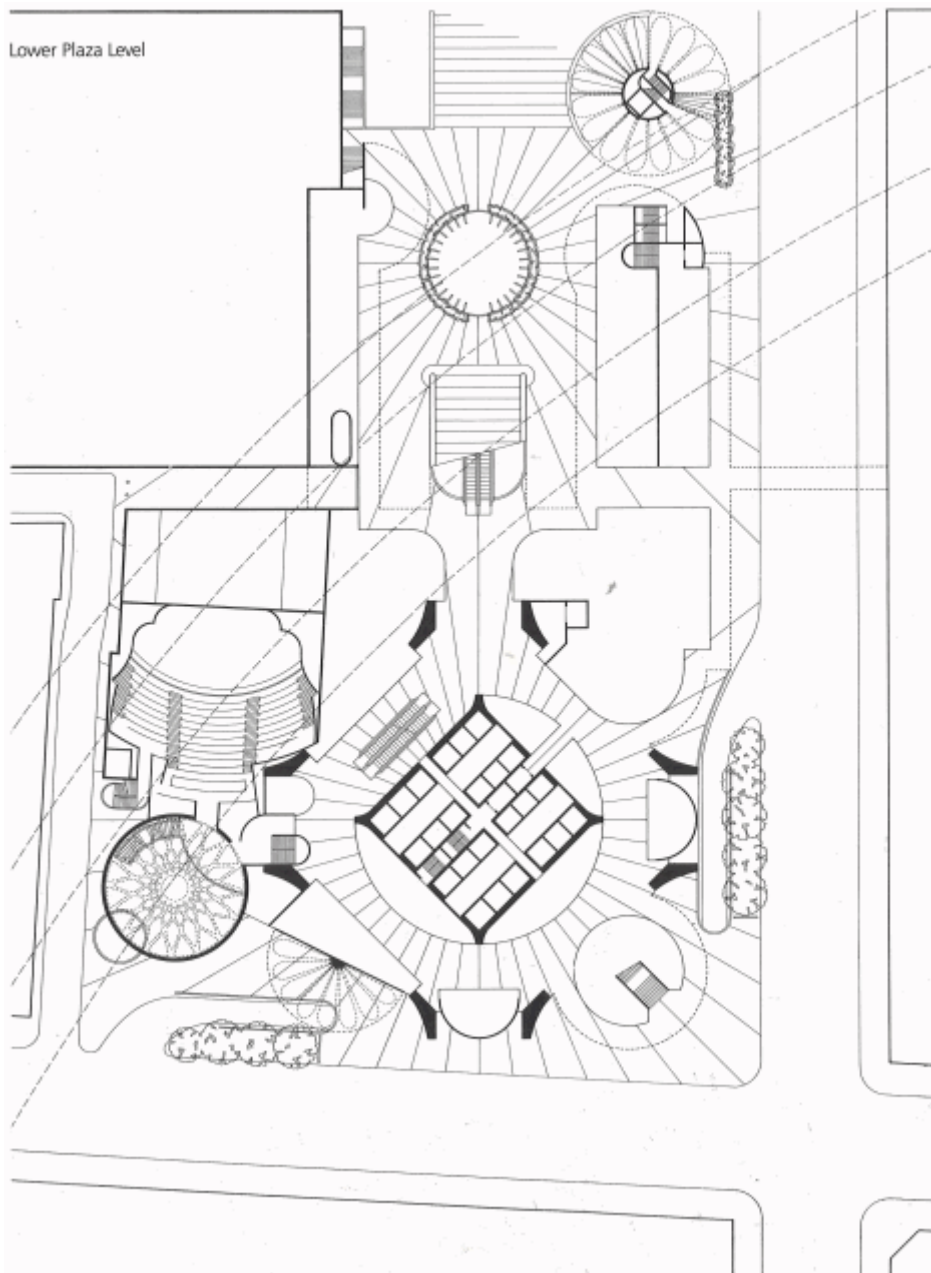
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**Image:**

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Sydney



**Caption:** Upper plaza plan as originally designed

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:**

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345f6d36b7f3d664cbe8d448b9150515aba.jpg>

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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Aerial photo of MLC Centre in 1979

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:** Max Dupain (Max Dupain & Associates job 11722 image 11722-46)

**Image date:** 01/02/1979

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/345061b27b1461948d5bec26550c889bd1e.jpg>

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**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

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Sydney



**Caption:** Street level view of MLC Centre in 1979

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:** Max Dupain (Max Dupain & Associates job 11722 image 11722-40)

**Image date:** 01/02/1979

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3455c92e5fb6a1c4ba591cd530c675fe55a.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test3455c92e5fb6a1c4ba591cd530c675fe55a.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test3455c92e5fb6a1c4ba591cd530c675fe55a.jpg)

**Image:**



**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Pedestrian plazas on the northern side of the MLC Centre in 1979

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:** Max Dupain (Max Dupain & Associates job 11722 image 11722-45)

**Image date:** 01/02/1979

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3454c5059c8828246c6b6f11e3d9d8daad7.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test3454c5059c8828246c6b6f11e3d9d8daad7.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test3454c5059c8828246c6b6f11e3d9d8daad7.jpg)

**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** The MLC Centre tower photographed shortly after completion

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:** Max Dupain (Max Dupain & Associates job 11591 image 11591-1c)

**Image date:** 01/03/1978

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/34525281b20c2db42969a5cccef73ddab5f.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test34525281b20c2db42969a5cccef73ddab5f.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test34525281b20c2db42969a5cccef73ddab5f.jpg)

**Image:**

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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Nervi-designed ceiling in Theatre Royal with suspended Charles O. Perry's "Mercator"

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler

**Image by:** Max Dupain (Max Dupain & Associates job 11285 image 11285-8)

**Image date:** 01/02/1979

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/3457e254f58693041f1ba8b455ffc8662d1.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb\\_test3457e254f58693041f1ba8b455ffc8662d1.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAPP/Thumb_test3457e254f58693041f1ba8b455ffc8662d1.jpg)

**Image:**



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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** Vestibule photographed at night with Josef Albers' "Homage to the Square"

**Copy right:** Penelope Seidler (photo), Josef and Anni Albers Foundation (tapestry)

**Image by:** Max Dupain (Max Dupain & Associates job no 11624. image no 11624-17c)

**Image date:** 01/08/1978

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/3455c6324d678c74ef7a104f03171fbb76b.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test3455c6324d678c74ef7a104f03171fbb76b.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test3455c6324d678c74ef7a104f03171fbb76b.jpg)

**Image:**

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**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** View of MLC Centre from Martin Place railway station in the 1980s

**Copy right:** City of Sydney Archives (CRS 422/1/598)

**Image by:** Stan Johnston

**Image date:** 18/10/1983

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34504d351b4bc6340e88bd2f19b4e4a8444.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34504d351b4bc6340e88bd2f19b4e4a8444.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34504d351b4bc6340e88bd2f19b4e4a8444.jpg)

**Image:**

**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

**Location:** 19-35 Martin Place Sydney 2000

Sydney



**Caption:** MLC Centre aspect viewed from Martin Place in 1980s

**Copy right:** City of Sydney Archives (SRC21626)

**Image by:** City of Sydney Archives

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34565850188383749849807a39fde4331b7.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34565850188383749849807a39fde4331b7.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34565850188383749849807a39fde4331b7.jpg)

**Image:**



**Item name:** MLC Centre complex including Theatre Royal, commercial and retail buildings, significant interiors, plazas, and artworks

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Sydney



**Caption:** Contribution of MLC Centre to Martin Place streetscape in the 1990s

**Copy right:** City of Sydney Archives (SRC1260)

**Image by:** City of Sydney Archives

**Image date:**

**Image number:**

**Image url:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34517b4cc3120fb471bb6257bcb8e702ec3.jpg>

**Thumbnail url:** [http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb\\_test34517b4cc3120fb471bb6257bcb8e702ec3.jpg](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34517b4cc3120fb471bb6257bcb8e702ec3.jpg)